

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 AF-08

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TAGS: CIEC

SUBJECT: CANADIAN SOUNDINGS IN G-8 CAPITALS

1. CANADIANS HERE TELL US OTTAWA HAS SENT INSTRUCTION TO EMBASSIES IN G-8 CAPITALS INSTRUCTING SOUNDINGS WITH SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS RE FUTURE OF CIEC.

2. MAIN POINTS OF CANADIAN THINKING INCLUDE FOLLOWING: SINCE ATTITUDE OF NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL BE CRUCIAL, OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE ALLOWED INCOMING OFFICIALS TO FORM PRELIMINARY POSITIONS. UNTIL THIS HAS HAPPENED G-8 MEETING WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE AND SO NOT LIKELY FOR ANOTHER MONTH OR SO. HOWEVER, SOME CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS ARE IN PLACE AND SHOULD BE USED TO CONTACT U.S. OFFICIALS, SPECIFICALLY IEA GOVERNING BOARD ON JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1 AND XCSS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 3-4.

3. ON TIMING FOR CIEC MINISTERIAL CANADIANS THINK MID-APRIL IS EARLIEST TIME AT WHICH ADEQUATE G-8 POSITIONS COULD BE PREPARED. THEY THINK MONTH OF MAY

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MIGHT ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE TO PEREZ-GUERRERO AND G-19 BUT THAT ANY LATER DATE WOULD PROBABLY BE SEEN BY THEM AS SHOWING LACK OF POLITICAL WILL ON PART OF G-8. CANADIANS ALSO NOTE THAT TIMING OF ANY ECONOMIC SUMMIT MIGHT COMPLICATE THE SCHEDULING FOR CIEC.

4. PEREZ-GUERRERO HAS TOLD CANADIANS THAT HE HAS BEEN

IN TOUCH WITH OTHER G-19 MEMBERS AND IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF G-19 MEETING FEBRUARY 10-11 PRESUMABLY IN PARIS. HE TELLS CANADIANS THAT HIS SOUNDINGS INDICATE G-19 IS INTERESTED IN AND WILLING TO WORK FOR CONSTRUCTIVE RESULT IN CIEC. CANADIANS SAY MCEACHEN WILL BE MEETING WITH P-G IN COMING WEEKS, POSSIBLY BEFORE G-19 MEETING.

5. CANADIANS HERE ALSO GAVE US DESCRIPTION OF REPORT FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN LONDON ON JANUARY 6 MEETING OF EC GROUP CONCERNED WITH CIEC. REPORT INDICATES EC MEMBERS FAVOR CIEC MEETING IN EARLY MAY RATHER THAN APRIL. THEY FEEL NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE WILL BE CRUCIAL AND WILL WANT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH US SOON. THEY WOULD WANT DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. TO BE BILATERAL (I.E., WITHOUT CANADA OR JAPAN). THEY HOPE FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN MINISTERS ON APPROACHING NEW ADMINISTRATION.

6. EC CONSENSUS ON MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD INVOLVE MEETING OF COMMISSIONS (WHICH THEY HOPE CAN BE KEPT TO MINIMUM) FOLLOWED BY SOME GROUP TO SORT OUT ISSUES (THIS GROUP MIGHT BE TEN CO-CHAIRMEN OR SENIOR OFFICIALS OR PERHAPS SOME FORM OF SUPER CONTACT GROUP). THIS GROUP WOULD THEN BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE MINISTERIAL.

7. COMMENT: CANADIAN CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION (PARAS 1 TO 4 ABOVE) RECOMMENDS PROCESS OF CIEC CONSULTATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFTER THE DECEMBER PAUSE. CANADIANS APPARENTLY EXPECT ONLY PRELIMINARY REACTIONS AT THIS POINT RATHER THAN DEFINITIVE POSITIONS.
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